

## **Delta Science Program's 2010 Focused Proposal Solicitation Package Initial Funding Recommendations**

### **Public Comment Received from:**

#### **California Department of Fish and Game Water Branch**

The Water Branch's BDCP unit has reviewed the Science Program PSP proposal titled *Integrating Ecosystem, Flood Control, Agriculture, and Water Supply Benefits: An Application to the Yolo Bypass*. Water Branch's BDCP unit provides the following comments.

The PSP proposal identifies 7 key areas of study that will derive data and a potential management scheme for the Yolo Bypass. Six of the seven focus areas identified in the document are areas of interest to the BDCP. Ground water recharge is not anticipated to be an element of the BDCP. The seven areas of focus are:

- Agricultural Economics
- Waterfowl Management
- Native Fish Habitat
- Internal Hydraulics and Flood Control
- Surface Storage and recovery
- Recreation
- Synthesis and Optimization

In general, the proposal has merit. The data/management scheme that could come from funding the proposal would be beneficial to users of the Yolo Bypass, including the BDCP and Yolo County. Unfortunately, we have concerns that the products to come from this effort will be duplicative and be delayed to a point that they may not be beneficial to the users of the Yolo Bypass or the BDCP development process.

The DFG and the DWR have begun a planning effort that seeks to accomplish all that the reviewed proposal proposes. Our process should culminate by the end of 2011, well in advance of the reviewed proposal target dates. The BDCP effort has the support and resources needed to generate a fishery enhancement plan that will consider all users of the Yolo Bypass and our plan will largely accomplish the goals of the reviewed proposal.

### **Specific Comments:**

#### ***Agricultural Economics***

The reviewed proposal proposes to interview users of the bypass to generate an understanding of agricultural uses. The DFG/DWR are developing a charette (an interview and GIS-based data collection process) to collect spatially explicit information that will guide any fishery

enhancement plans for the Yolo Bypass. The potential exists that the data gathering process that could come from the reviewed proposal could confuse the DFG/DWR planning efforts.

#### *Internal Hydraulics*

The reviewed proposal seeks to generate a flow model for the Yolo Bypass. The DWR has created a flow model for the Yolo Bypass that is of finer resolution than the model proposed in the proposal. The model generated by the proposal will likely be of reduced value to the DWR/DFG planning process due to the timing of the work and the lower resolution.

In the absence of a fully supported BDCP planning process, the proposal would have merit. However, as BDCP is newly engaged with users of the Yolo Bypass, and as BDCP anticipates that it will accomplish all that the proposal seeks to accomplish, we need to be concerned about duplication and timeliness of effort.